

PROJECT MANA

Project MANA is a partnership between the Office of Pacific Islander Affairs and Community Connection Services. The CEO for CCS is Sam Brown. They collaborated and wrote for a grant from the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, which was awarded in 2000 to the Office of Pacific Islander Affairs, and the office in turn subcontracted with Community Connection Services to implement the project. An additional grant was awarded in 2001 for a total of two, and the project is currently on its third year with another grant through June 2003.

Project Mana has 4 components, namely a *Parenting Project*, *Thinking Errors Group*, *Treatment Planning*, and an *Aftercare Program*.

Parenting Project

This is parenting training for changing destructive adolescent behavior. The curriculum is based on the award winning Parent Project, Inc Program based out of Los Angeles, California. A two-hour parenting class is held on a weekly basis for ten weeks for parents who are having moderate to severe behavioral problems with one or more adolescents in their home. This prevention and intervention training program has been nationally recognized as one of the best parenting program in the nation. It empowers parents to regain control through determination, following through with consequences, and learning various behavioral modification techniques with their child.

Thinking Errors Group.

Group sessions involve adolescents on probation whose parents are attending the parenting training at the same time. The group sessions are also on a weekly basis for two hours, concurrent with the parenting classes on a ten-week basis. Materials and information discussed during the groups are from various literatures from Dr. Staton Samenow, recognized authority on criminal thinking errors. For each week, a Polynesian role model is invited to be the keynote speaker before each group discussion. Every Polynesian role model will be from various fields of academics and professions. Some of the speakers will include a physician, attorney, therapist, business owner, academic professor, and sports caster. Throughout the group sessions, adolescents are exposed to positive alternatives to change their thinking errors.

Treatment Planning

The treatment planning is culturally sensitive, utilizing the Family Group Conferencing Model developed in New Zealand. It is a strengths perspective model that focuses on the individual strengths of each family member. Each individual's input is taken into consideration regarding the most effective alternative to treat the adolescent's behavior. This model creates a partnership between the adolescent, his/her family and the probation officer.

Aftercare Program

After services for the parents and the adolescents have been completed, this program is committed to continue to provide support for an additional six months in order to reinforce the skills learned during the ten-week period. This includes monthly home visits and 24-hour on-call assistance.